

## ATTENTION RIVER RUNNERS ON THE COLORADO RIVER

The anticipated high water in May and June will drastically change the nature of your trip. Please keep the following points in mind:

- Do not attempt to navigate the Colorado River without the proper skills or equipment
- Personal Flotation Devices (lifejackets) are required. High float lifejackets (with more than 23 pounds of flotation) are recommended for all whitewater boaters during this time.
- Boaters will experience swift, unpredictable currents and cold water (40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit). The swift water elevates the risk of a capsized or flipped boat; the temperature of the water elevates the risk of hypothermia for anyone caught in the water
- Top-heavy canoes are especially vulnerable to the strong eddy currents that are prevalent during high water
- Be sure to secure your boats to shore to prevent loss of boats while at camp. Secure your boats using strong ropes and a permanent anchor point such as trees or large boulders.
- Campsites will be scarce due to the higher water. Look for trails and openings in the vegetation that lead to camps above the high water line. Consider joining other groups in camp if necessary. Do not make new campsites by destroying vegetation.
- Rig your boat safely. Loose ropes and straps create entrapment hazards. Bowlines and other ropes make assistance from motorized craft very dangerous or impossible.
- Your safety is your responsibility. Do not rely on commercial outfitters or on any rescue personnel for your safety. It is your decision to run the river at high water.
- Think about how close together your boats should be during high water.
- Make every attempt to self-rescue if necessary. Talk to group members about emergency and contingency plans before launching on the river
- Know your skills. Be mentally and physically prepared. Be safe. Have fun.